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Paw Paw parade, ceremony pay tribute to fallen

Paw Paw's 104th annual Memorial Day services were held Monday morning, May 26, with the annual parade starting from the Bistro 120 parking lot, via Michigan Avenue to the Veterans Memorial Park for services. Following the services, a luncheon was held at the American Legion Hall on Niles Street.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

High Winds knock down Carnegie Center Christmas Tree

Following a late Thursday night and early Friday morning storm, May 15 and 16, that knocked out power to many Van Buren County residents, Paw Paw Department of Public Works employees are shown early May 16, trimming away branches from the Paw Paw Community Christmas Tree that landed partially on a parked vehicle. The tree had been a fixture at the Carnegie Center, located on Kalamazoo Street. High winds reported at 70 to 75 mph, caused the tree to tumble.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Lawrence names 2025 honor graduates

The Lawrence High School Class of 2025 Honor graduates include Brooklyn Remelts, Leslie Reed, Alyssa Coombs, Kelsey Harroun, Cheyenne Villanueva-Estrada, Angel Naranjo, Gabe Zapata, and Cash Litchfield. Missing from the photo is Brennan Randall.

Photo courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools

Freedoms we enjoy came with a great price says speaker- Mattawan

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

MATTAWAN - Dan Brooks, who spoke at the Mattawan Memorial Day service in Mattawan Memorial Park on Monday, May 26, told those gathered that the many freedoms that we have today, came at a great price.

Brooks quoted verses from the Bible, John 15: 12-13, which read: "This is my com-mandment: that you love one another as I have loved you. For greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Brooks then listed the number of casualties from the different wars and conflicts: Civil War – 698,000; World War I – 116,516; World War II - 405,399; Vietnam – 58,220; Ko-rean War – 36,574. "These numbers don't include Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any current conflict," said Brooks.

"We have freedom to have differing opinions, freedom to worship, and have different religions, worship centers, freedom to protest against things we may or may agree with. Freedom to assemble, just like today, unlike other countries. In other words, freedom takes time to understand the sacrifices that were made, so we can continue to have this service and our barbecues. God bless each of you here and God bless the United States of America."

A Mattawan Memorial Day Parade was held Monday morning, May 26. A service followed in Mattawan Memorial Park, downtown.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Lawrence, Gobles observe Memorial Day

Lawrence held a Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 26, with a service that followed at the Lawrence Village Park. Over 1,000 luminaries, representing Lawrence area military veterans, past and present, were on display at Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Monday night, following a ceremony at Lawrence Veterans Memorial.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod
Photos courtesy/John Garrod

Gobles held a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, that traveled down State Street (M-40).

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Marine veteran receives ESA dog

Kane Goodson, second from left, is shown with his ESA dog, Japa, who he received Friday, May 23, from Van Buren County Veteran Services. The two-year-old black Lab was trained by Magnum K9, represented by Scott LaRoe, third from right. Shown at far left is Mike Fossitt, Van Buren County Veterans Services officer, second from right, David Krzycki, VB County Veterans Services Director, and at far right, Dennis Urquhart, Van Buren County Veterans Services officer. Goodson, of South Haven, is a Marine veteran, who served in Somalia from 1992 to 1997.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Lawrence students treated to special visitor

Although deer are often seen on the campus of Lawrence Public Schools, a special visitor was spotted Friday morning, May 23, as the students arrived at school. A newly born fawn was on the lawn between both school buildings. The fawn was observed throughout the day and was healthy and alert. The mother doe was also spotted in the area and understanding Whitetail deer behavior, the fawn will be well cared for and eventually moved as soon as there was no more human activity.

Photos courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Lawrence inducts new NHS members

Lawrence Public Schools recently introduced the newest members of the Louise B. Nicholas Chapter of the National Honor Society. New inductees include Colton Anders, Lillith Becht, Sarah Carlisle, Abi Collison, Colleen McCaw, Aurora McQueen, Zayda Moreno, Isaac Nower, Juan Roldan, Yuridia San Juan Gonzalez and Lucas Sinkler. Photo courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools

Two police officers join South Haven Police

By James Windell

Officer Aaron Spears and Officer Silverio Miranda III stood before the South Haven City Council on Monday, May 19, 2025, to take the oath of office for South Haven police officers.

City Clerk Megan Kiker read the oath of office, a code of ethics for police officers. The code reads:

"As a law enforcement officer with the South Haven Police Department, my fundamental duty is to serve the residents of South Haven with integrity, fairness and professionalism. I pledge to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent from harm, deception and injustice and to uphold the Constitutional rights of all people, ensuring liberty, equality and justice for all.

"I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to my fellow officers and the community. I will maintain calm and courage in the face of danger, scorn or criticism. I will exercise self-restraint and remain ever mindful of the welfare, dignity and rights of others.

"I will be honest in thought and deed in both my professional and personal and official life always obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the South Haven Police Department.

"I will hold in confidence any information of a sensitive nature unless disclosure is necessary for the proper performance of my duty.

"I will never engage in corruption, abuse of authority or any action that might discredit my badge, my department or my profession. I will not tolerate such behavior in others and will speak out when integrity is threatened.

"I will work in partnership with other law enforcement agencies, city departments and community organizations to uphold justice and foster truth.

"I will continually strive to increase my knowledge, skills and effectiveness as a law enforcement professional knowing that I alone am responsible for maintaining the highest standards of performance.

"I dedicate myself before God and my fellow officers and to the people of South Haven to the noble calling of public service through law enforcement.

"As a member of the law enforcement profession, having read this code of ethics, I fully understand it and do solemnly swear and affirm with no reservation to abide by it in both my official and private life to the best of my ability so help me God."

Both new officers on the force then signed the code of ethics.

Officer Aaron Spears is from Jenison, Michigan, and graduated from Hudsonville High School. He completed the police academy at Grand Rapids Community College, where he earned an Associates in Law Enforcement in April. 2025.

Officer Silverio Miranda III is from Holland, Michigan, and he graduated from West Ottawa High School. He began his college education at Oakland University and then transferred to Grand Rapids Community College. He completed the police academy at GRCC and earned an Associates in Law Enforcement in April, 2025.

Both officers began their duties on May 12, 2025. According to Interim Police Chief Adam DeBoer, Officers Miranda and Spears will first participate in two weeks of in-service in which they will be instructed in such aspect of police work as policy, the use of tasers and department firearms, local ordinances, and report writing.

"After their two weeks of in-service training they will start our Field Training Officer program," says DeBoer. "That is a four-phase training where we gradually increase their work load until the final 80 hours where, although still with a training officer, they are expected to act as a normal officer would act." The Field Training Officer program is approximately a 14-week program.

Area post offices take part in food drive

Mattawan Postmaster Jonathan Gard and the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive recently delivered over 2,000 pounds of donated food to the Mattawan Food Pantry. At Lawrence, the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive saw the collection of 1,159 items that were donated to the Lawrence Area Food Pantry. Photo courtesy/Mattawan Post Office. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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Was age a factor in SH's failure to approve ZBA appointments?

Amy Nichols

By James Windell

A total of 20 people were on the City Council agenda on Monday, May 19, 2025, for appointments to various boards and commissions.

Mayor Annie Brown, who presides at City Council meetings, suggested starting with the names that were up for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Steve Runkle, Brandi Coulombe, and Amy Nichols were each slated for three-year appointments.

When the three came to a vote, the motion failed. In the discussion that followed, councilwoman Mary Hosley seemed to be explaining why she voted against the three.

"We say we want new people to apply," Hosley said. "I would like to see new people appointed to these boards. If the same people keep getting appointed, I think that sends the wrong message to the community."

As the discussion turned to trying to approve each individual, Amy Nichols was first to be talked about. Hosley said, "She's been on other boards…The community needs to consider new people. I'm trying to appoint new, younger people to the boards."

That caused Brown to interject: "You can't say younger, that's discrimination."

"You said it yourself," Hosley responded, "having younger applicants…"

"You cannot discriminate based on age when making appoints," Brown said.

Although the City Council went on to approve other appointees for other boards and commissions, voting on appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals was tabled for a future meeting.

Following the meeting, Nichols was asked to comment.

"I was shocked at the agism that was shown," Nichols said. "How can that be justified? Older adults are part of the community."

Nichols went on to say that as she is leaving the Planning Commission after serving on that commission for several years that she thought that the Zoning Board of Appeals would be a way for her to continue to give back to the city. "It would allow me to still do my civic duty, and I have a ton of experience writing zoning ordinances," Nichols said. "I thought it would be a really good fit for me."

Nichols added that she wonders if Hosley has a problem with older people.

When Mary Hosley was contacted to have a chance to respond to Nichols, she said, "It's my position that we encourage new people to apply for boards and commissions. I have been making this argument for a couple of years now. If we are really going to engage the community, we should stop reappointing the same people. People should not be on boards for years and years."

Pressed to clarify her statement about younger people, Hosley said, "Saying younger people was probably not the best way to say it. I'm not a politician. My Ward Three position is the first political office I've ever run for. I'm encouraging new people to run for these boards. And not just move people from one board to another."

Asked if she was opposed to any person being appointed to a board because of their age, Hosley said quickly, "Of course not! The fact that that was portrayed shows how unsupportive some members are to helping advance our community as a whole and ensuring fair representation of all of our members. I heard from several people who said that that was the way they interpreted my comment. It was not interpreted as about age. I interpreted it as experience."

Nichols said she didn't want to take Hosley's comments any further. "It would be nice if she'd apologize though," she said.

SH Council appoints board and commission members to new terms

By James Windell

The South Haven City Council was asked to consider appointing 20 individuals to various boards and commissions at its regular meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025.

Seventeen of the appointees were quickly approved by the council, however, the council could not pass a motion to approve the three nominees to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Although at least one council member asked Mayor Annie Brown if she would consider other appointees to the open positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the mayor, who makes appointments to the City Council for approval, refused.

The following individuals were approved by the City Council with terms beginning June 1, 2025:

- John "Mike" Henry to the Board of Public Utilities for a 5-year term.
- Larry Heinig to the Construction Board of Appeals for a 5-year term.
- Tom Rummel to the Downtown Development Authority for a 4-year term.
- Randy Timmer to the Downtown Development Authority for a 4-year term.
- Ashley Deming to the Harbor Commission for a 3-year term.
- Craig Richards to the Harbor Commission for a 3-year term.
- David Flack to the Harbor Commission for a 3-year term.
- Monique Crowley to the Housing Commission for a 5-year term.
- Liji Hanny to the Housing Commission for a 5-year term.
- Gordon Bliel to the Library Board for a 5-year term.
- Melinda Gruber to the Parks Commission for a 3-year term.
- Jody Gross to the Parks Commission for a 3-year term.
- Laura Jager to the Parks Commission extending to a full term ending 2027.
- Eddie Polk to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term.
- Paul Fitton to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term.
- Dana Burd to the South Haven Water Sewer Authority for a 4-year term.
- Bill Roberts to the South Haven Water Sewer Authority for a 4-year term.

Filling the terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals will be on the agenda at a future City Council meeting.

Van Buren GOP holds diaper drive

When Van Buren GOP (VBGOP) heard about the diaper shortage for families in need, they pulled together a diaper drive collection spot. All donations were delivered to United Christian Services, Paw Paw. Shown in the photo are, Doug Nelson, VBGOP Chair, Executive Committee members John and Robyn Young, VBGOP Vice Chair Matt Nilson, former Precinct Delegate Ron Reisterer, and John Heidema, precinct delegate.
Photo courtesy/ Van Buren GOP

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Lawrence Elementary students pay tribute to Lawrence area veterans

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWRENCE - Marking the third year, Lawrence Elementary School students paid tribute to Lawrence area veterans with music and words during a program held Friday, May 23.

Gathered in the elementary gymnasium were the elementary students and 22 Law-rence area veterans, representing the different branches of the armed forces.

Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent Ryan Williamson, said, “Memorial Day is a special holiday in the United States when we remember and honor the soldiers who died while serving in the military.”

Williamson said, “To honor them means that we remember them with respect, thank them, and show them how much we appreciate their courage. He continued, “Memorial Day is also a time when families get together, maybe have a picnic or attend a parade, but it’s important to remember why we have this holiday. It’s not just a day off. It’s a day to think about courage, sacrifice, gratitude and appreciation.”

He concluded, So, this Memorial Day, I hope you’ll take a moment to pause and re-member the heroes who helped make our country what it is today.”

Ray Wojnaroski, a Korean War veteran, of Kalamazoo, had the distinction of being the oldest veteran in attendance, at age 97. He attended the event with his daughter, Arlene Mattteson, also of Kalamazoo.

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First American female soldier fights a revolution

A Revolution of Her Own! ™ features History At Play™, LLC’s (HAP, LLC) Founder and Artistic Director Judith Kalaora in an immersive solo performance as Deborah Sampson, the first woman to successfully enlist, to professionally fight in, and to be honorably discharged from the American Military. The hour-long program chronicles her life: An indentured servant by age five, Deborah grew up in a man’s world, where women were naught but second-class subjects. Without the ability to vote nor own property, Deborah knew options were limited; breaking the rules may be necessary to accomplish a greater goal in life.

Now, Deborah Sampson travels to South Haven, MI to tell her incredible story at Listiak Auditorium 600 Elkenberg St., on June 14, 2025, at 7:30 PM. An exclusive event sponsored by South Haven Theatre Series which is delighted to bring Judith Kalaora back to the South Haven stage after her very successful appearance in 2024 as Hedy Lamarr.

Ticket Information and can be purchased at the door or online at www.southhaventheatreseries.org. For more information, contact www.southhaventheatreseries.org.

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On February 25, 2025, The Village of Paw Paw filed an Application for Approval of Renewable Energy Plan with the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008, as amended by Public Act 235 of 2023.

Any interested person may review the Application at the Michigan offices of Village of Paw Paw, 111 E. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw, MI 49079 or at the office of the Commission’s Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on the Commission’s website at: **https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.**

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-16627. Statements may be emailed to: **mpscedockets@michigan.gov.** Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917.

This notice is intended for existing customers as well as any prospective customers, these Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 15th, 2025. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission’s website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

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VIEWPOINT

Biden's health problems should have been revealed to public

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

So, we are now hearing what many of us have suspected for a long time. President Biden's term in office was marred with health problems too the point that for much of his presidency his closest advisors were acting as president for many functions.

Books, particularly CNN's Jake Tapper's, detail a president who was suffering from cognitive decline to the point where on a particular day, advisors didn't know whether he would be capable of functioning as president or not.

But that's last week's news. Now we have learned Biden has terminal prostate cancer. It is in his bones, and we haven't been told whether it has reached his brain. He doesn't have long to live and I ask everyone to pray for our former leader. It is a sad ending to a 50-year political career.

It has been reported that Biden hadn't had a PSA test, which is typically done on any man over 50 yearly when he gets a physical, in 14 years. I find that hard to believe. He supposedly has access to the finest medical care in the world. The President of the United States doesn't submit to a simple PSA test that would detect prostate cancer on a regular basis? Sorry, that's virtually impossible. More likely, his doctor and family knew he had cancer early on in his term and everyone agreed to keep it quiet.

Prostate cancer progresses more slowly than other cancers. It takes many years for it to reach terminal, and if caught early it can be treated effectively. There are various treatments including radiation seed implants, cyber knife, proton therapy, radiation therapy, freezing cancer or surgery to remove the prostate. If one waits or delays treatment the cancer will eventually escape and spread to your bones and other parts of your body. But for most this takes years, many years to happen.

I question what Biden's confidant, White House Doctor Kevin O'Connor, has been doing all these years. The doctor must be aware of Biden's condition and should have been providing treatment, for several years. Why was his cognitive decline and prostate cancer revealed to the public? Why were O'Connor and his closest aids, including Jill and Hunter Biden, performing duties of the presidency?

We are a sympathetic nation and would have great sympathy for the president's health if we were informed. We all have a mother, father or close relative that has suffered from dementia. Ditto prostate cancer. We would have accepted that a close advisor was helping perform some of the presidential duties to allow the president to complete his term.

But that wasn't the case. Instead, we were fed a pack of lies. Biden we were told was the healthiest 80-year-old alive and worked circles around all of us. And then, when all this was going on he decided to run for a second term. Or was it he? I got a feeling it was his family, mostly his wife, Jill, that desperately wanted to enjoy First Lady status for another four years, despite her husband's failing health.

He should have been forced to retire and spared the embarrassment of that horrible debate performance. With his health he had no business running for a second term. Additionally, as a nation we should have been informed of his health condition. Transparency is so important when you represent the people, and the Biden administration was remiss in providing information important to the public on many levels.

That said, we all need to say a prayer for our 46th president. Pray that he can live in retirement peacefully for a few more years. And if you are a male over 50, get that PSA test often. It's a matter of life or death.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

In 1700 King Louis XIV of France, had 498 people preparing his meals, per historian Matt Ridley. This would have included chefs, sous chefs and their assistants; bakers, butchers and a crew who kept ovens stoked.

Add to that the cleanup workers, those who set tables, folded napkins, polished silverware and so on. It might have included vineyard workers or coopers making wine barrels. It took a hefty payroll to do the job.

Being the Sun King doesn't seem like a bad gig if you can get it. Most of us would willingly trade places with Louis XIV, but that doesn't mean he was a happy man.

Very likely, if he studied ancient Egyptian history, he would have been miserable. The pharaohs were at the top of any all-time list of rulers who had wealth to afford power and pleasure. One of them expected to have a breakfast of lark's tongues to start his day.

Today we don't think about how many people take care of us. Louis and his mates relied mainly on locally-sourced food. We have come to think of important food as something of a birthright: fresh fruit out of season, coffee, tea, chocolate are just the start.

All those commodities take many people to grow the produce, harvest and ship it, process it and eventually get it on our shelves.

Most of us keep our blinders on so we don't have to look how we rely on others. We prefer to remain unaware of them. Worse, we would rather focus on what we do not have and wallow in our misery.

Louis' contemporary, French mathematician Blaise Pascal, observed "the sole cause of man's unhappiness is his inability to stay quietly in his room." That applies to us today.

Rulers and oligarchs still love to go to war or engage in intrigues hoping will bring them still more wealth and power.

People like you and me may set our sights lower, but we too love intrigue and drama. Even when we can't actively engage in them, they are favorite forms of entertainment.

For example, Kevin Costner and Helen Mirren in the television series "Yellowstone" aren't all that far removed from medieval rulers. Are the "Real Wives of ..." any different from drama queens of the royal courts? Even a liquor commercial features a segment where the actress demands, "Give me xxxx and drama!"

No wonder so many people are unhappy. Instead of staying quietly in our rooms, the moment life gets too quiet we want to stir things up.

Pascal said this explains the real quest for economic, social and especially political power. "We want to be diverted from who we are," he said.

"Some," he went on, "seek external diversion and occupation as result of their constant sense of wretchedness. Rest proves intolerable because of the boredom it produces. They must get away from it and crave excitement."

We all know people in our lives who are like that. We never know what will set them off or when it might happen. That gives them power to control us as we tread lightly on eggshells.

They are the Jay and Daisy Buchanan of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel "The Great Gatsby." Near the end of the saga, narrator Nick Carraway tells how they like to break things, then retreat back into the wealth until the next time.

Our havoc makers may not have money, but they will retreat back behind whatever barriers they have created to protect themselves.

The antidote to this misery is to create genuine meaning in our lives. It begins when we choose to keep drama out of our lives. We can do that, but it can be hard to keep our decisions.

The next question is what positive thing or things are we going to create or embrace that will give our lives a true sense of purpose.

French artist Claude Monet. He created magnificent paintings, and in time became wealthy from them. What recharged his emotional batteries and gave meaning to his life was his garden s filled with water lilies.

We can find examples all around us of people who have devoted themselves to finding and maintaining a sense of purpose.

Go forth, find that one true thing that brings meaning to your life, focus on it and follow Pascal's advice: stay quietly in your own room.

Recent storm kept Van Buren County Sheriff's Office "extremely busy

"Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Dispatch and Uniform Response were extremely busy with trees down, power outages, and other issues related to the storm that came through," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

A suspect was developed for an indecent exposure incident in Geneva Township at a local store a few months back. The suspect was lodged and charged for the incident, according to Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response had a pursuit with a motorcycle in Almena Township. The sergeant on patrol tried to stop the motorcycle for no plate and driving in the wrong lane. After initially stopping, he took off trying to get away. The sergeant observed the driver pull into a driveway and bail off to stand behind a parked vehicle. He was taken into custody and lodged on flee and elude, DWLS, and two outstanding bench warrants, according to Sheriff Abbott.

Our Marine Division, Dive Team, and detectives worked with Western Michigan University and their underwater equipment in Keeler Township at a private Lake on a cold case investigation. "Several points of interest were dived and more will be soon to try to recover a missing individual from a case on April 15, 1978 (Joyce Fisher). Anyone with any information on this case is urged to call our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a trespass/felonious assault in Bloomingdale Township. The suspect was trespassing on the victim's property after being previously evicted. An altercation between the two took place while he was trespassing and the victim/property owner was struck in the head with a board. The suspect fled the scene after the incident. The report was submitted to the VanBuren County Prosecutor's Office for charges.

Uniform Response handled a trespass/felonious assault in Columbia Township. The suspect showed up at a property walking around a camper trailer. The owner observed the suspect and approached him to find out what he was doing there. "The suspect told him he lives there, and an argument started immediately. The owner advised deputies the suspect was acting crazy and had to defend himself due to the suspects actions. Both individuals were interviewed, and the suspect ended up going to the hospital for a medical issue," said Sheriff Abbott. The report was sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review and charges.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a three vehicle Car Crash in Hartford Township. A vehicle was stopped to turn when it got rear-ended and pushed the vehicle into the oncoming lane causing it to get hit again. One driver was transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Two of the three drivers did not have valid driver's licenses and were cited for it.

Uniform Response handled a 911 Abuse Call. This call was obvious to Dispatchers it was a younger child based on what was said. Deputies made contact at the residence it came from, and it was found that the caller was 11 years old. The child was pressured by friends to make the call.

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SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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Quilters Haven moving out of downtown South Haven

Tim Payne

By James Windell

Sharon Jillson's favorite quilt shop has been in downtown South Haven for four years.

"It's just a wonderful, wonderful shop," Jillson, a South Haven quilter and resident, says. "Tim and Robin are so nice and helpful. Whatever you need, whether it's fabric, patterns or design advice, they are there to help."

However, Quilters Haven & Unique Michigan Gift Shop, owned by Robin Ellison and Tim Payne, will be moving the week of May 27, 2025, and reopening in a new location on June 1.

Not that the move particularly bothers Jillson because parking was at a premium in Quilters Haven's current location at 253 Center Street in the mid downtown area. In fact, co-owner Tim Payne says that is one of the reasons for the move.

"Not only did we lack foot traffic, but when we move we will have much more parking," says Payne.

Payne also says that the shop, which not only features fabric, notions, and accessories for sewers and quilters but also gift items, was running out of room.

"Now in our new store on 73rd Street, we will have enough room for evening classes," Payne points out.

The new shop will be in a former warehouse that shares building space with the Habitat for Humanity Restore and H & R Block, between Tractor Supply and Menards. Payne thinks that because of the constant flow of traffic on 73rd Street customers will more easily find the store and it will be more accessible.

Payne says that Quilters Haven is a frequent destination for members of the Quilters Haven South Haven group. Members of the group, who by coincidence share the same name with the shop, rely on Quilters Haven for a large variety of fabric lines as well as support and guidance for selecting and coordinating fabrics. What also attracts quilters to the shop is that Quilters Haven does long-arm quilting for customers – something that many quilters do not do on their own without an expensive machine and the space needed to store such equipment.

"The first week we were open, just before the pandemic," Payne recalls, "the quilt group came to greet us. They've been some of our best customers ever since." The quilt shop provides support for the annual quilt show presented by Quilters Haven South Haven during the Blueberry Festival held the second weekend in August.

Payne also notes that the shop is unique in that it caters to tourists who are looking for gifts – such as photos, painted tiles and South Haven merchandise.

An attraction for Jillson and other quilters is the variety of high-quality quilting fabrics stocked by the shop. "Now we'll be able to carry even more fabric," Payne says.

The shop also participates in the All Michigan Shop Hop which takes place from June 1 through July 31. Quilters can visit Quilters Haven and other participating quilt shops for special promotions and prizes.

As of June 1, 2025, Quilters Haven & Unique Michigan Gift Shop will be located at 2959 73rd Street in Suite 3. The shop is open during the summer months Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm and on Sundays from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. For more information, visit their website at https: //quilters-haven-n-gifts.com

Paw Paw Village Players seek director for production

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Village Players have announced that the Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," will return in December.

"We are set to present this annual event at the Paw Paw Village Playhouse, upstairs from the fabulous Lucky Wolf Cafe on Dec. 5, 6, 12, and 13, at 7 p.m., with a matinee Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., said Don Stine, Paw Paw Village Players president.

"So why am I telling you about it in May?" said Stine. "I'm glad you asked," he said.

"We are community theater, as you know. And in the true spirit of making our theater your theater, we are in search of a director for this classic Christmas tale. You have no doubt seen a few versions of the play. Most of the time, it is told in the same way. Last year's production, directed by Lisa Grace, put a fresh twist on the show. We hope you got to enjoy it. The story was exactly as Dickens intended, but the presentation was new, exciting, and highly acclaimed. We would love to see more fresh ideas brought to the stage in this show," said Stine.

He added, "A little directing experience would be helpful, but we would love to hear your ideas. If you would like to give it a try or for more information, please contact us at: villageplayers@ppvp.org, or leave us a message at (269) 657-PLAY."

Auditions are expected to be held early in October, according to Stine.

"We are also in need of rehearsal space for this show, as well as other shows that we are planning for this summer and beyond. Please contact us if you have or know of a space we can use," said Stine.

South Haven native published in CBRNe World Magazine

South Haven native, Captain Kevin E. Ferrell, MSM, PA-C (USA Ret) has been published in the reputable magazine CBRNe World. The article, titled "Toxidromes, Recognize to Stabilize," appears in the April issue of the publication.

CBRNe World is a leading international magazine serving professionals involved in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNe) threats and incidents. It provides in-depth analysis, news, and features for military, civil response, academia, government agencies, research labs, and industry professionals.

The article, "Toxidromes, Recognize to Stabilize," authored by Kevin Ferrell, focuses on the importance of recognizing toxidromes for effective initial response to chemical agent inhalational exposures. The article offers critical insights for first responders and medical professionals.

Kevin recently retired from active military service on 01 February 2025, as a WMD Specialist (Weapons of Mass Destruction). "After receiving such a comprehensive education in CBRNe Medicine through the military, I felt that I could continue in my medical pursuits by offering some of my particular knowledge to certain professionals that could benefit from it." "That's why I wrote this article." "I also plan to write several more articles on similar topics in the future. I think that, especially in today's upside-down world, topics like these will become more and more relevant and we need to develop strategies now to protect us later."

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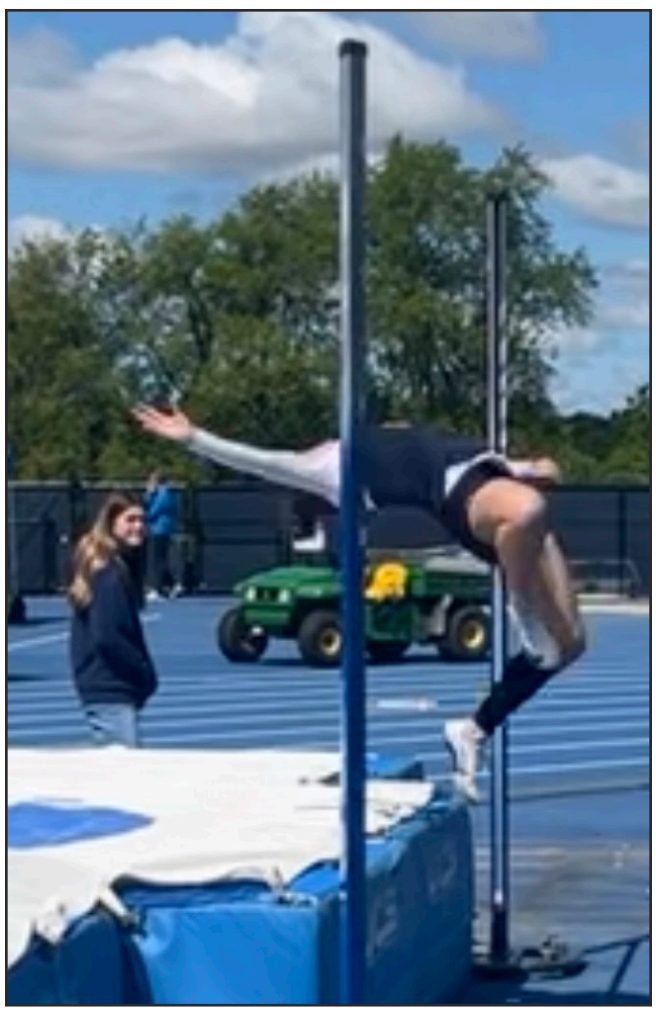

Sasha Doll soaring over the bar with a winning jump of 5-1

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers girls track and field team traveled to Hillsdale College for the MITCA Team State Championships last Saturday and the Lady Tigers came home as the fifth place team in the state.

"It was a complete team effort as we had 14 personal records or season records from the ladies," coach Andrew Wood said. "Some of them even had to step up and fill in for others who were feeling under the weather. Overall it was a great way to wrap up the team portion of our season."

Wood said the squad leaders voted on team awards that were given to the following athletes: Zoie Wood was awarded the PR award for her two-second personal record in the 300 hurdles.

The Tuff as Nails award went to freshman Alyssa Sparks for stepping up and running the 300 hurdles for the first time ever to fill in for a teammate. The Diamond award was given to both Sydney Raseman and Bella Laughlin for filling in for others and running the 400 meter dash. The MVP was awarded to Ellie Wood for getting second in both the 4x100 & 4x400 relays, and doing well in both Shot Put and Discus.

The team will compete next at the MHSAA Individual State Championships Saturday May 31st where they have someone qualified in every running event and also high jump.

Lawton senior seeks glory at state meet

Mason Mayne has been a track and football standout at Lawton.

By John Raffel

Lawton's Mason Mayne will be headed to Northwestern for a college football career next fall but is focusing on the Division 3 state track and field finals this Saturday in Kent City where he hopes to land two state titles.

A year ago, Mayne was an inch away from winning two state championships He threw the shot put 60 foot, 1 inch to lose the title by one inche. But he won the discus at 166-6 to take home Lawton's first ever track and field state title in that event.

Mayne has been undefeated all season in both events and isn't in the mood to suffer his first set back.

In the discus, he won he regional title with a throw of 171-5. His personal records is 185-6 which he threw at the SAC conference meet. He has thrown the discus in 13 meets and has won all 13 of them.

He is also0 13-for-13 in the shot put and had a throw of 59-7 to win at regionals. His personal record in the shot put is 61-3 which be also threw at the SAC conference meet.

During his junior season, Mayne said he would focus on football and track

"I have previously played basketball and wrestled, but I am going to focus on track and football from here on out," he said a year ago. "I always enjoy whichever sport I am currently in the season for. I have done well in both football and track. Not many football players get to start on a state finalist team as a freshman, and I have been all-state in shot put for 2 years and discus for 1 year.

"I am going to focus on indoor track this winter."

Bangor sweeps Ottawa Hills

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's baseball team improved to 17-15 with a 13-3 and 12-2 sweep over Ottawa Hills at home on May 22.

In the first game, Bangor scored 11 runs in the fifth inning. Julian Pullins, had an RBI single in that inning.

Jaret McCoy got the pitching win for Bangor, giving cup three hits and three runs over giving innings, striking out eight and walking three.

Pullins went for 2-for-3 and led the team with two runs batted in. Bangor's offense stole 16 bases.

In the second game, Bangor got on the board in the bottom of the second inning after Pullins walked, Peyton Cannon walked and Jaxon Webb hit a sacrifice fly. A ground out by Peyton Cannon helped Bangor extend their early lead in the third. Jaxon Webb homer to left field, scoring two runs in the bottom of the fifth for Bangor.

Terrance Payne earned the win for Bangor. He allowed four hits and two runs over six innings, striking out seven and walking two.

Webb, Bangor's No. 9 had three RBIs for his team. Carson Pullins had two hits Isaiah Irvine had four walks

Bangor was scheduled to play at Cassopolis on May 27

South Haven baseball team splits

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's baseball team is 15-9 after splitting a doubleheader on May 23 with Holland at home.

The first game was a 4-1 South Haven win.

The Rams opened the scoring the bottom of the first on Charlie Hiatt's RBI single.

South Haven took a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the third with Jadon Schneider's double being a key hit.

Max Verseput was the winning pitcher for South Haven, allowing no hits and no runs over there innings, striking out eight and walking one.

Elijah Eddy pitched four innings in relief. He allowed five hits and one run.

Jordan Schneider led South Haven with two RBIs and a hit. Also getting a hit were Jadon Schneider, Verseput, Eddy Hiatt, Wyatt Dotson, Johnathan Bevevino and Isaac Chalupa.

South Haven's defense did not commit an error.

Holland won the second game 8-3. Max Verseput, Hiatt and Chalupa had one Rise apiece Chalupa had three hits for South Haven. South Haven stole four bases.

Morse took the pitching loss for South Haven.

South Haven falls to Buchanan

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's softball team fell to 21-12 overall with a pair of losses to Buchanan on Friday 1-0 and 7-2.

In the first game, South Haven outhit Buchanan 6-4. Madi Dotson and Molly. Verse put both had hits for South Haven.

Sofia Grieves took the pitching loss for South Haven.

In the second game, Kiersten Chalupa had two RBIs for South Haven and also two hits.

South Haven was scheduled to play a doubleheader header at portage Central May 27 and then face Niles on May 31 in district action.

South Haven came into this last at 21-10. The team beat Bridgman 11-5 and 10-4 on May 13.

In the first game, Verseput had three hits. She also was the winning pitcher, giving up nine hits and five runs over seven innings, striking out nine and walking one. Madi Dotson and Verseput both had two RBIs.

Madi Duda had four hits in the second game. Verseput was the winning pitcher, allowing four hits and nine runs and walking one.

On May 15, South Haven swept Martin 16-1 and 18-1. In the first game, Verseput dove in seven runs on three hits. She allowed zero hits and zero runs. Chapula pitched in relief.

In the second game, Dotson had three hits and six runs. Addison Dekoning was the winning pitcher, allowing two hits and one run over three innings.

On Saturday, in tournament action, South Haven lost to Kalamazoo Christian 6-5 but South Haven won 8-3 over Gobles. Grace Strebeck had three hits against KC. Verseput took the pitching loss but had seven strikeouts.

Dekoning was the winning pitcher against Gobles. She had seven strikeouts.Wiley had two RBIs. Daisy Jackson had two RBIs for Gobles.

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Gobles boys fifth at MITCA meet

The Gobles boys and girls teams performed at the MITCA meet.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The boys and girls track teams qualified to compete at the MITCA team state meet on May 24 at Hillsdale College.

It was a cool sunny day, but the Tigers had many "hot" performances as the boys set 15 season or personal records Saturday.

The boys finished 11th among the top teams in the state for Division 4.

For team awards, Gobles coach Marc Kline was named MVP, setting a person record in both the 100m and 400m dash and scoring 113 points.

The PR award went to Cole Ringel for his 1600m and 3200m performances. Tough as Nails went to Cole Cannon for stepping up in the 3200m relay despite being sick. The Diamond award went to the 4x400m relay team. This included a jumper (Coal Otis), two throwers (Jackson Geiger and Thomas Burrell), and a hurdler (Jose Boger).

"It was a fun day and satisfying to end with so many improved times and heights/distances," Kline said. "The state qualifiers will be competing at the MHSAA State Finals in Hudsonville on Saturday.

Lawton soccer scores 9-0 win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Rainy first round of districts tonight against Marcellus on May 22, but the team came away with a big 9-0.

"It was a good all around team play again to lock in the win," coach Abigail Burris said.

Leading the scoring tonight with four goals was Tiara Ellis, followed closely by Lilleonah Mandujano with three goals.

Addy Miller and Allyson French each record a goal for the night with an epic sliding celebration from Allyson French," Burris said. "We love the energy.

"It was good ball movement by all tonight helped lead the way in scoring with assists coming from many. Jaelyn Auton and Lilleonah Mandujano each recorded two assists, Taylor Whipple, Addy Miller and Maya Tag each recorded one assist. Lila Karsen recorded the shutout in goal. It was an awesome effort by our back line to help record the shutout."

Lawton has a 9-6-1 record and was slated to play on May 27 at Kalamazoo Christian against the host school in a district semifinal match.

Lawton lost 5-3 to Saugutuck on May 19.

South Haven track teams having strong season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven track and field ended the season with amazing efforts and personal best in most every event according to the school's coach.

"We were so close to present several athletes in the state finals meet (boys and girls 400m, boys long jump, boys 100m, boys 200m and boys 4x100)," South Haven coach Trevor Smiley said. "However, only one did qualify. Emily Thomas (junior class of 2026) qualified for state in the long jump. She did so in dramatic fashion saving her best for the very last jump. She needed 16-2 and jumped 16-7.5.

"Emily will now go to Hamilton HS on Saturday May 31 to compete for a podium spot. Emily will certainly maintain a great level of fitness as she is a dual sport athlete competing on the girls varsity soccer team."

South Haven boys were 15th and the girls were 14th in the regional meet.

"This year's team, although inexperienced, plans to continue building on its successes. My hope is that with a quality off-season the talent will shine brightly next year," Smiley said.

Paw Paw girls at 29-3

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw's Paw's girls softball team is 29-3 entering tournament action this week.

The Red Wolves were slated to play at Coldwater May 27 for two games and then will enter district tournament action this weekend.

On Wednesday at home, the Wolves slipped with Dowagiac, losing the first game 8-3 and winning the second 5-2.

In the first game, Bella Clemens was in the circle for Paw Paw, allowing six runs on eight hits over 4.2 innings, striking out three and walking four.

Aliya Edson had two RBIs for Paw Paw which did not commit an error.

Paw Paw won the second game 5-2, Stella Shaefer stole home which helped the Wolves tie the game 1-1 in the bottom of the first. Clemons had a three-run double in the third inning.

Cami VanderMeeden got for the win for Paw Paw, allowing two hits and two runs in seven innings, striking out six and walking none.

Tigers honor Paw Paw legend

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Two former Detroit Tiger greats including Paw Paw's Charlie Maxwell were honored on Sunday at Comerican Park by the Tigers.

Rocky Colavito and Maxwell, who spent three years together with the Tigers, died in December, 17 days apart. The Tigers honored them by bringing members of both families on Sunday to Comerica Park for a Tigers-Cleveland Guardians a game and had a moment of silence for both prior to the first pitch.

Jason Beck of MLB. Com noted honoring Maxwell on Sunday made sense for Maxwell "whose nicknames included 'Sunday Punch' for his knack of big hits on that day. His career best 31-homer season in 1959 included 12 home runs on Sundays. That included a four-homer Sunday in a doubleheader against the Yankees in what was then known as Tiger Stadium.

A posting by the Tigers on Maxwell following his death stated the following: "we are saddened by the passing of former Tigers outfielder Charlie Maxwell and share our condolences with his family and loved ones. A native of Paw Paw, Michigan, Maxwell played eight seasons in Detroit, was a two-time All-Star and at 97 years old was our oldest living alum."

Beck's story on Maxwell added that he had the nickname Paw Paw "for his Michigan hometown where he was born and died and lived until he passed away at 97. He lived in the same house until he went into assisted living his later years and still drove around town until last year."

Bangor soccer girls win district opener

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Bangor Vikings opened their district tournament with a 2-0 win over the Covert Bulldogs on Friday.

Andrea Barrajas Gutierrez put Bangor on the board seven minutes into the match, breaking through the Bulldog defense for the opening goal.

Before halftime, junior captain Madison Lennox doubled the lead with a composed finish from the penalty spot.

Covert applied pressure in the second half, but Bangor's defense held firm to secure the shutout.

With the win, the Vikings will face Zion Christian in the district semifinals. The match was to be held on Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Zion Christian Byron Center soccer field.

The Vikings soccer team wrapped up its regular season with a thrilling 2-1 win against the Colts from Comstock. In the first half, the Colts broke through our defense to score, leaving the Vikings trailing 1-0 at halftime.

The Vikings came out strong, continually pushing the ball forward. Their persistence paid off when a free kick was awarded, and Solexey Calderon stepped up to bury the equalizer. With momentum on their side, the Vikings kept pressing, and the defense stood tall, denying the Colts any further opportunities.

Late in the match, Isabella Macedo capitalized on a chance at the top of the box, firing a shot into the net for the game-winning goal.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search:
"Buddy Turner"

••••

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays
in person or online at -
www.pawpawpres.com or
www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook & YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
657-7727 • 420 W. Michigan Ave.
Pastor Dan Phillips
SUNDAY Service: 10:00 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship

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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

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ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday:
Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church

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NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

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HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country Since 1894
SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call:
Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837 or
Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur • (269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study &
Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open
Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.•

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FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

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ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
SUNDAY Mass - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
SATURDAY 4 p.m.

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • 657-6441

DE TSMIA
Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • 624-4411

CAMPBELL MURCH CEMETERY MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • 668-3350

Adams FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-6347

ho
HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-4511

St Julian winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • 657-5568

BRONSON LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • 657-3141

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedents' Trust
In the Matter of
THE ANTHONY AND MARILYN BENZIE REVOCABLE TRUST AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 10, 2013, AS AMENDED
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Grantors/Decedents, Anthony L. Benzie (date of birth: April 27, 1932) died April 3, 2019 and Marilyn J. Benzie (date of birth: March 26, 1937) died May 8, 2025. There are no personal representatives of the Grantors' estates to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of the decedents are notified that all claims against Anthony L. Benzie, Marilyn J. Benzie or The Anthony and Marilyn Benzie Revocable Trust Agreement Dated December 10, 2013, as amended will be forever barred unless presented to Vickie S. Benzie, named Trustee, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: May 21, 2025

Attorney for Trustee:
Brett A. Grossman (P63069)
Grossman Horne & Cannizzaro, PC
610 N. Spruce Street, PO Box 59
Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 649-3000

Trustee:
Vickie S. Benzie
63381 41st Street, Lot 46
Paw Paw, MI 49079

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1082-DE
ESTATE OF MARY KATHERINE PREHN, DECEASED
Date of Birth November 19,1932
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Katherine Prehn, died July 15,2019 (07/15/2019).
Creditors of the dece4dent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Janet Haywood, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 23,2025

Attorney
Elizabeth Robinson P#4345
4341 S. Westnedge Avenue, Ste 1200
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-344-0700

Personal Representative
Janet Haywood
36955 37 1/2 Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-2472

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT in the COUNTY OF Van Buren
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 2025 1065 DA
(Number by which Probate Court identifies estate)
ESTATE OF BETTI JO LOVELAND, DECEASED
Date of Birth: August 4, 1943
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Betti Jo Loveland, died on January 17, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to John Madaras, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E Paw Paw St # 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 23,2025

Personal Representative:
John Madaras
Address: 815 Parchmount
Parchment, MI 49004
Phone: (269) 217-9304

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1078-DE
ESTATE OF THOMAS EUGENE BARANOSKI, DECEASED
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Eugene Baranoski, died April 9,2025 (4/9/2025).
Creditors of the dece4dent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Daniel L. Baranoski, c/o James Shek, Atty, P.O. Box A, Allegan, MI 49010, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 27,2025

Attorney
Jame Shek P#37444
P.O.Box A
Allegan, MI
269-6736125
269-344-0700

Personal Representative
Daniel L. Baranoski
C/o James Shek, Attorney, P.O. box A
Allegan, MI 49010
269-217-8941

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1079-DE
ESTATE OF HARRY DAVID PASQUITH, DECEASED
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Harry David Pasquith, died March 28,2025 (03/28/2025).
Creditors of the dece4dent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kurt M. Anderson, c/o James Shek, Atty, P.O. Box A, Allegan, MI 49010, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 27,2025

Attorney
Jame Shek P#37444
P.O.Box A
Allegan, MI
269-6736125
269-344-0700

Personal Representative
Kurt M. Anderson
C/o James Shek, Attorney, P.O. box A
Allegan, MI 49010
269-217-8941

New CCS Pub -> County: Van Buren; Mtgr: PNC Bank v. David Holzworth; Atty: Trott Law P.C. - Trott Law P.C.; 1st Pub: 5/1/2025; Atty File #: 499675L03; Insurer: (unknown)
VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-074232-CH
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 26th of June, 2025 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: The Subject Property is situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: Lot 26, Block 2, Sandy Beach, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 13, Van Buren County Records More commonly known as: 93140 Gravel Lake Dr., Lawton, MI 49065-8429 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: April, 21, 2025 Trott Law, P.C.
1559666

(05-01)(06-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Paul N. Palma and Donna Palma, husband and wife, whose address is 46627 Broadway Drive, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026, as original Mortgagors, to Bank of America, N.A., being a mortgage dated February 18, 2011, and recorded on March 21, 2011 in Liber 1547 Page 338, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 23, 2024 and recorded on January 29, 2024 in Liber 1761 Page 392, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE AND 58/100 DOLLARS ($57,393.58). Said premises are situated in the Township of Arlington, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 6 AND 7, BLOCK 13, SCOTT SHORES SUBDIVISION NO. 1, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 33, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Street Address: 46627 Broadway Drive, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: May 8, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6479

(05-08)(05-29)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Ernest Cramer; Atty: Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. - Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.; 1st Pub: 5/15/2025; Atty File #: 25-000354-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM a.m./p.m. on June 12, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ernest Cramer of Van Buren County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 9th day of February, 2011, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 24th day of February, 2011, Liber 1546, Page 347, of the Van Buren County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $28,357.61 plus accrued interest at 8.75000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Antwerp, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN SECTION 20, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, TOWNSHIP OF ANTWERP,COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF M-119 HIGHWAY AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER BEING 280.88 FEET EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY 99 FEET THENCE NORTHEASTERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES 132 FEET THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL TO SAID HIGHWAY 251.1 FEET TO THE 1/8 LINE THENCE WEST ON 1/8 LINE 201.38 FEET TO BEGINNING. ALSO, BEGINNING 99 FEET NORTHWESTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION NORTH LINE M-119 HIGHWAY AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER IN SECTION 20 THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 89.15 FEET NORTHERLY AT RIGHT TINGLES 132 FEET SOUTHERLY 89.15 FEET SOUTHWESTERLY 132 FEET TO BEGINNING. Commonly known as: 62941 N M40 Highway, Lawton, MI 49065 Tax ID: 80-02-020-039-10 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: May 15, 2025 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 25-000354-1

(05-15)(06-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Marcela Tellez; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 5/22/2025; Atty File #: 523981F01; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 26, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Marcella Tellez and Rene Tellez
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 9, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 15, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $323,123.01
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 15, Hall's Subdivision, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 41, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 33207 Bernice Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9504
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 22, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1562128

(05-22)(06-12)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kevin M Smith; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - Brock & Scott PLLC MI; 1st Pub: 5/29/2025; Atty File #: 25-12656; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Smith to American Advisors Group dated June 6, 2022 and recorded June 13, 2022 in Liber 1739 at Page 520, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $56,440.01. Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 19 AND THE NORTH 30 FEET OF LOT 20, FOWLER'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW. Being the same property conveyed to Kevin M. Smith, a single man from Michael T. Smith and Kevin M. Smith, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Fern E. Smith, deceased, Van Buren county probate Court File No. 20081133DE by Quit Claim Deed dated April 15, 2009 and recorded April 16, 2009 among the Land Records of Van Buren County, State of Michigan in Book 1517, Page 469 Instrument No. 3198477. Tax Account #: 80-41-200-019-00 Said property is commonly known as 209 S State St, Paw Paw, MI 49079. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER:
If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: May 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-12656

(05-29)(06-19)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT BY PAW PAW TOWNSHIP BOARD

TO THE OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: ALL REAL PROPERTY ADJOINING ACKLEY LAKE,

TAKE NOTICE pursuant PA. 188 of 1954, being MCLA 41.721 et seq., as amended, to a resolution adopted by the Paw Paw Township Board

1. THE PAW PAW TOWNSHIP BOARD intends to make such improvement and tentatively designating a special assessment district application of weed control treatment to Ackley Lake and to create a special assessment district for the purpose of assessing the costs of said improvement in the aforesaid district; and, it appearing to the Township Board said improvement for eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants is an appropriate public improvement to said Lake against which the cost, including costs of engineering and all expenses incident to the proceeding for making and financing the improvement shall be deemed part of the cost, is to be assessed and a petition of the property owners adjoining the proposed district is not required to affirmatively commence the assessment process;
2. A public hearing shall be held on the 9th day of June, 2025 at 6:00 PM, at the Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 North Gremps Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 to hear oral or written objections or comments regarding the proposed improvement and to the special assessment district to be comprised of the owners of record of land adjoining Ackley Lake, laying within Paw Paw Township.
3. The plans and estimate of costs for the improvement shall be placed on file with the Township Clerk and shall be available for public examination. If periodic redeterminations of costs may be necessary without a change in the special assessment district, redetermination may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest providing that an additional hearing will be required if an actual incremental costs increase exceeds the estimated increase by 10% or more.
4. At the public hearing, the Township Board may revise, correct, amend or change plans, estimate of costs or the special assessment district.
5. American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice THE PAW PAW TOWNSHIP HALL IS BARRIER FREE. The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 business days notice. Contact: Rebecca Payne, PAW PAW TOWNSHIP CLERK, 269-657- 4340

Rebecca Payne
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT BY PAW PAW TOWNSHIP BOARD

TO THE OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: ALL REAL PROPERTY ADJOINING MAPLE LAKE,

TAKE NOTICE, pursuant PA. 188 of 1954, being MCLA 41.721 et seq., as amended, to a resolution adopted by the Paw Paw Township Board

1. THE PAW PAW TOWNSHIP BOARD intends to make such improvement and tentatively designating a special assessment district application of weed control treatment to Maple Lake and to renew a special assessment district for the purpose of assessing the costs of said improvement in the aforesaid district; and, it appearing to the Township Board said improvement for eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants is an appropriate public improvement to said Lake against which the cost, including costs of engineering and all expenses incident to the proceeding for making and financing the improvement shall be deemed part of the cost, is to be assessed and the improvement shall not be made without petition of the property owners within the proposed district if the record owners of land constituting more than 20 percent of the total land area of this proposed district file their written objections with the Township board at or before this first hearing;
2. A public hearing shall be held on the 9th day of June 2025 at 6:00 PM, at the Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 North Gremps Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 to hear oral or written objections or comments regarding the proposed improvement and to the special assessment district to be comprised of the owners of record of land adjoining Maple Lake, laying within Paw Paw Township.
3. The plans and estimate of costs for the improvement shall be placed on file with the Township Clerk and shall be available for public examination. If periodic redeterminations of costs may be necessary without a change in the special assessment district, redetermination may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest providing that an additional hearing will be required if an actual incremental cost increase exceeds the estimated increase by 10% or more.
4. At the public hearing, the Township Board may revise, correct, amend or change plans, estimate of costs or the special assessment district.
5. American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice the paw paw township hall is barrier free. The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Public Hearing upon 2 business days notice. Contact: REBECCA PAYNE, PAW PAW TOWNSHIP CLERK, 269-657- 4340

Rebecca F Payne
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP CLERK

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY NOTICE OF HEARING TO RENEW TOWNSHIP-WIDE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FOR FIRE PROTECTION

The Porter Township Board, having previously established a township-wide Special Assessment District for the cost of fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and fire protection, **HEREBY sets a public hearing for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:40 p.m. at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan.**

The Porter Township Board will be in session to discuss and hear comments which may be offered regarding the re-affirmation of the township-wide special assessment in the amount of 1.5 mil (one and one-half mil), for the cost and expenses of the fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and fire protection. The nature of the improvement to be made is such that a periodic redetermination of cost and renewal of the levy shall be made on an annual basis.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township Hall at (269) 624-4022.

Dated: May 14, 2025
Heather Smith, Clerk, Porter Township

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

The PORTER TOWNSHIP BOARD will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.1364 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2025.

The hearing will be held on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Hwy, Lawton, MI 49065.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 9.01% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 0.36% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022.

This notice is published by:
PORTER TOWNSHIP
88040 M-40 HWY
LAWTON, MI 49065
269-624-4022

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY NOTICE OF HEARING TO REAFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP-WIDE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FOR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ROADS LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Porter Township Board, having previously established a township-wide Special Assessment District for the cost of construction, improvement, and maintenance of public roads located in the township, **HEREBY sets a public hearing for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:50 p.m. at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan.**

The Porter Township Board will be in session to discuss and hear comments which may be offered regarding the re-affirmation of the township-wide special assessment in the amount of 1.0 mil (one mil), for the construction, improvement and maintenance of public roads located in the township. The nature of the improvement to be made is such that a periodic redetermination of cost and renewal of the levy shall be made on an annual basis.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township Hall at (269) 624-4022.

Dated: May 14, 2025
Heather Smith, Clerk, Porter Township

The Van Buren Intermediate School District is now accepting sealed bids for a house built by the Construction Trades students at Van Buren Tech as specified in the bid packet. Bid packets are available for download at *www.vbisd.org* under District Services/Business Office. Sealed bids are due **June 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Van Buren Intermediate School District Business Office, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will be returned unopened. The bid must include an Affidavit of Familial Relationship and Affidavit of Compliance – Iran Economic Sanctions Act. The Van Buren Intermediate School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities which it deems to be in the best interest of Van Buren Intermediate School District, and the right to award the contract to other than highest bidder. Direct all questions regarding said proposal to Robert Smith at (269) 539-5325 or *rsmith@vbisd.org.*

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 139.5-25

Please take notice that on May 21, 2025 the Township Board of Bloomingdale Township adopted Ordinance No. 139.5-25, an Ordinance to add provisions to the Township Code of Ordinances regarding short-term rentals in the Township, to provide definitions and regulations regarding short-term rentals, to provide penalties for violation of the Ordinance, and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict here with. Copies of the complete text of the Ordinance may be obtained from the Township Clerk's office at 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026, or by emailing bdaletwp@bloomingdalecom.net.

The Ordinance has the following sections: Section 1: Purpose; Section 2: Definitions; Section 3:Applicability; Section 4: Short- Term Rental Standards; Section 5: Inspections; Section 6: Violations; Section 7: Enforcement Official; Section 8: Civil Action; Section 9: Validity; Section 10: Effective Date, which is thirty (30) days after its publication.

Published by Order of the Township Board
Bloomingdale Township,
Van Buren County.

Melanie Kelly, Clerk
109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026
(269) 521-3800 ex 3

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A CAMPER/RV ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 140.5-25

Please take notice that on May 21, 2025, the Township Board of Bloomingdale Township adopted Ordinance No. 140.5-25, an ordinance to add provisions to the Township Code of Ordinances regarding use of Campers/RV's in the Township, to provide definitions and regulations regarding Campers/RV use in the Township, to provide penalties for violations of the ordinance, to provide an effective date, and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith. Copies of the complete text of the ordinance may be obtained from the Bloomingdale Township Clerks Office at 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026,Or by emailing bdaletwp@bloomingdalecom.net.

The Ordinance has the following sections: Section 1: Title; Section 2: Purpose; Section 3: Definitions; Section 4: Regulations and Registration; Section 5: Enforcement; Section 6: Penalties; Section 7: Effective Date which is thirty (30) days after publication.

Published by the Order of the
Bloomingdale Township Board
Bloomingdale Township, Van Buren County

Melanie Kelly, Clerk
109 E. Kalamazoo St., MI 49026
(269) 521-3800 ext 3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAW PAW TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Paw Paw Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. The public is invited to comment on the matter.

Application:
- Request: Special land use and site plan for an accessory building and deck to exist within a side setback and for a second-story accessory dwelling unit (retroactive approval).
- Zoning District: ARR/AGR
- Project Address: 66639 41 ½ Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Project Parcel Number: 80-14-028-034-00
- Applicant: Marc Swartz

Meeting Information:
- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date.

If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Gobles Public Schools Notice of Public Hearing On Proposed 2025-2026 Budget

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 9, 2025, at 5:45 o'clock p.m., at Gobles MS/HS Library, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, Michigan, the Board of Education of Gobles Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, Michigan and available online at the Gobles Public Schools Website.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Susan Dalton-Akers,
Secretary

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